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CAMERAS, LENSES, MAGIC LANTERN,  
MICROSCOPES, THERMOMETERS, SPECTACLES,  
&c.  
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99, HATTON GARDEN, LONDON.

# Hong Kong Daily News

ESTABLISHED 1867.

十六萬一第一 日九十二月二周年六十號

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 18TH, 1890.

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NOTICE.

Communications respecting Advertisements, subscriptions, printing, binding, etc. should be addressed to "THE MANAGER," and all special business matters to "THE MANAGER." All Correspondence and Subscriptions which are not answered for a fixed period, will be discontinued until otherwise notified.

Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should be sent before 11 A.M. in the day of publication. After that hour the postage will be doubled.

Telegraphic Address, *Press*, Telephone No. 12.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

CANTON HANDELSREGISTER.

DES KAUFMANN OSCAR FRIEDE DRICH ANDREAS ODT ist am 1. Juli 1888 als Theilhaber die einigen Handelsgegenstände A. SCHOMBURG & Co. eingetragen.

Eingetragen am 16. April 1890.

Canton, Kaiserliche Konsulatserkunft,

BUDLER.

TO BE LET.

Just below Peak Flagstaff.

BAHAR LODGE—FURNISHED.

Apply to

HUGHES & EZRA.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1890.

NO. 4, DES VIEUX VILLAS, Mount Kellet, Peak, with use of Telephone up to the 31st December, 1890.

Apply to

HUGHES & EZRA.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1890.

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE FOURTH YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the Club, will be held at the Club House, on FRIDAY, 25th April, 1890, at 4 P.M.

By Order,

C. H. GRACE,

Secretary.

Hongkong Club,

18th April, 1890.

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

A N EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the Hongkong Club, will be held immediately on the conclusion of the Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Club, on FRIDAY, the 25th April, 1890, for the purpose set forth in the notice posted in the Hall of the Club House.

By Order,

C. H. GRACE,

Secretary.

Hongkong Club,

18th April, 1890.

EAST BORNEO PLANTING COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

NOTICE is hereby given that an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the Company, 6, Ice House Street, on SATURDAY, the 12th May, 1890, at 1 P.M., taking Passengers and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Through Bills of Lading issued for trans-

portation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, to Atlantic and Inland Cities via the Overland Railways, to Havana, Trinidad, and Barbados, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, by the Company's and connecting Steamers.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of Steamers.

First-class Fares granted as follows:—

To San Francisco.....\$225.00

To New Zealand and return.....\$325.75

To Liverpool.....\$325.00

To London.....\$320.00

To other European points at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and the Imperial Chinese Customs, to be obtained on application.

Passenger by this time have the option of purchasing Ordinary by the San Francisco and connecting Lines, Union Pacific, Northern Pacific, or Canadian Pacific Railways.

Passenger who have paid full fare, embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within one year, will be allowed a discount of 10% from Return Fare. This discount does not apply to through fares from China and vice versa.

The Day previous to sailing, a Parcel Postage will be received at the Office until 5 P.M. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full; value of same is required.

Concierge Invites to accompany Cargo destined to points beyond San Francisco in United States should be sent to the Consular Office in San Francisco, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For further information apply to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 504, Queen's Road Central.

By Order of the Directors,

CHARLES F. HARTON,

Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1890.

HONGKONG ATHLETIC CLUB.

AT THE GENERAL MEETING held on the 15th instant, under the presidency of H. E. THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, the following Resolutions were passed:—

1st.—That the "Hongkong Athletic Club" be, and the same is hereby formed.

2nd.—That H. E. The Governor for the time being of the Colony, be President.

3rd.—That the Hon. A. P. MacEwan be Vice-President.

4th.—That the duty of preparing draft Rules and Regulations be entrusted to Mr. Young, and that a subsequent Meeting be called to consider and approve such Rules, and appoint Officers.

5th.—That a notification be published in the local papers inviting Gentlemen who wish to become Members to send in their names to Mr. Young without delay.

The Undersigned will be pleased to receive the names of Gentlemen desirous of being elected Members of this Club, and it is hoped that the Community will be willing to give their energetic support.

W. H. YOUNG,

Hon. Secretary, pro tem.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1890.

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS.

A BONUS of Twenty per cent upon Contributions for the year 1889, has this day been declared.

Warrants may be had on application at the above Office on and after the 1st proximo.

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

General Agents.

Canton Insurance Office, Limited.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1890.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY.

CONSIGNEES per Company's Steamer "KWAI YIANG."

are hereby notified that the cargo is being landed in the name of the Consignee; where it will be left in Godown, the cargo will be ready for delivery from Godown from date.

Goods undelivered after the 2nd instant will be subject to Rent. All damaged Goods must be left in the Godown, where they will be examined at 11 A.M. 24th inst.

BUTTERFIELD & SWINEY,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th April, 1890.

HONGKONG DIRECTORIAL STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

"DEVA WONGSE."

Captain F. H. Lee, will be despatched for the above Port on SUNDAY, the 20th inst., at DAYLIGHT.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

YUEN FAT HONG,

Agents.

Hongkong, 17th April, 1890.

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY, AND TAIWANFO.

THE Company's Steamship.

"TEALES."

Captain Hunter will be despatched for the above Ports on SUNDAY, the 20th inst., at DAYLIGHT.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LA PLAIX & CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 16th April, 1890.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.  
FOR SINGAPORE, BATAVIA, SAMA-  
BLANG, AND SOUABATA.

THE Standard.

"DEVONHURST."

Captain Houghoff will be despatched as above

TO-DAY, the 18th inst., at NOON.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1890.

(188)

INTIMATIONS.

BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,  
LIMITED.

(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841).

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
HONGKONG.

WHOLESALE & RETAIL DRUGGISTS.

ANALYTICAL,  
DISPENSING, AND GENERAL  
CHEMISTS.

P. R. F. U. M. E. B.

PATENT MEDICINE PROPRIETORS.

SEEDSMEN.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

CIGAR IMPORTERS, &c. &c.

MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED  
WATERS.

BY SEVEN MACHINERY.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DRY PLATES.

Apparatus Optical, and Materials of all  
kinds suitable for Amateurs and Professionals

MAILS, PASSENGERS, SPECIE,  
CARGO, will leave this Port for the above  
places.

Cargo and Specie will be registered for London,  
Marseille, and Marseilles, and accepted in  
transit through Marseilles for the principal  
ports of Europe.

Steamer "CONGO" will be granted till Nov.

Cargo will be received on board until 4 P.M.

Specie and Parcels until 3 P.M. on the 30th  
April, 1890. (Parcels are not to be sent  
on board; they must be left at the Agency's  
Office.) Contents and Value of Parcels are  
required.

For further particulars, apply to the Com-  
pany's Office.

G. DE CHAMPEAUX,

Agent.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1890.

(189)

INTIMATIONS.

THE STANDARD.  
A SCOTTISH LIFE OFFICE OF 65 YEARS  
STANDING, PROVIDING INSTITUTIONS OF THE  
UNITED KINGDOM.

WHEN it is remembered that a Life Assurance Contract may not fall to be fulfilled for a quarter, or even half a century  
after being entered into, it will be readily understood how important it is to the Policyholder that the management of the Office should be of the highest possible character. The Standard has a long record of past good services to refer to: its Funds, annually increasing, amount to \$6,500,000; and all modern features consistent with safety have been adopted.

ADAMSON, BELL & CO.,  
Agents, Hongkong.

ADAMSON, BELL & CO

## INTIMATIONS.

**HONGKONG TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED,**  
(LATE THE HALL & HOLTZ CO., LTD.)

Are now Showing a Large and well selected STOCK OF GENTLEMEN'S SUMMER UNDERWEAR & PANTS.

Gauze Men's VESTS and PANTS.  
Summer Men's VESTS and PANTS.  
India Gauze Men's VESTS & PANTS  
Balbriggan VESTS & PANTS.

A Large Assortment of  
STRAW HATS.  
SUMMER SCARFS, in great variety.

## JUST TO HAND.

A Large Stock of TAN LEATHER,  
RUSTY LEATHER, and RED LEATHER SHOES.

WHITE CANVAS SHOES.  
HONGKONG TRADING COMPANY, LIMITED.

Hongkong, 24th March, 1890.

BY APPOINTMENT  
A. S. WATSON & COMPANY LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.  
MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED WATER.

OUR AERATED WATER MANUFACTORY is replete with the best Machinery, embodying all the latest improvements in the trade.

The greatest attention has been paid to appliances for ensuring purity in the Water supply, to secure which we have added a Considerable number of supplies at 3,000 gallons of distilled water per day, so as to be in position to compete in quality with the best English Makers. Our Sweet Waters cannot be surpassed anywhere.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are exercised in the manufacture throughout.

WATER HOME SODAS

We will supply large bottles as before, also sets of Extra Charge, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS, whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

COAST PORTS. Waters are packed and sent by board ship at Hongkong prices, and the full amount charged for Packages and Empties when received in good order.

Courtauldr Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is:—  
“D I S P E N S A R Y, H O N G K O N G.” And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is List of Waters always kept ready in Stock:—

PURE AERATED WATER  
SODA WATER  
LEMONADE  
POTASH WATER  
SELTZER WATER  
LITHIA WATER  
SARASAPARILLA WATER  
TONIC WATER  
GINGER ALE

GINGERADE  
No Credit given for Bottles that look dirty, or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Water, as such Bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,  
Hongkong, China and Manilla.

HONGKONG, APRIL 18TH, 1890.

In former times the balance of trade was considered favourable to a country when the exports exceeded the imports. The difference, it was believed, was payable in money and represented the net gain. This fallacious doctrine was exploded long ago, and it is now thoroughly understood that unless the imports are in excess of the exports the trade is unprofitable. For every thousand pounds worth of piece goods exported to China the British merchant expects to be able to purchase goods in the latter country which, when sold in England, will realize not only the thousand pounds which represented the piece goods exported but in addition sufficient to cover all charges of freight, insurance, and commission, and to leave a margin of profit. If he fails to do this the transaction is a losing one. Thus, then, the piece goods exported would appear in the export returns as of a value of £1,000, while the imports received in exchange would appear in the import returns as of a value of say £1,100. The difference, instead of representing an adverse balance to be settled by a special payment, represents the merchant's profit and charges. In the same way a merchant sending a thousand dollars' worth of tea from China to a foreign market expects to receive in return goods which, when landed in China, will give him a return sufficient to cover the cost of the tea, pay all charges, and leave him a profit. Thus at both ends the imports ought to exceed the exports in value if the trade is a profitable one, and if it is not a profitable one it must come to an end. The figures published by the Imperial Maritime Customs would seem to show that China's foreign trade is eminently profitable. Last year, for instance, the imports were HK. Tls. 11,984,355, and the exports HK. Tls. 9,647,832, leaving a balance of HK. Tls. 13,226,523, which the reader, in the absence of any explanation to the contrary, would be justified in supposing to be China's profit. The Statistical Secretary of the Customs, however, shows in his annual report that the trade is by no means so profitable as it looks. The statistics of values, Mr. McKEAN says, "if user-claimed, prove what is contrary to fact, namely, that China's foreign imports invariably outweigh her exports," whereas the exports not only pay for the imports, but suffice also to reimburse China's foreign credits—the principal and interest due on account of loans, and to yield besides a surplus, which enters China as silver bullion. It is therefore well to explain what the values as given in these tables mean. Now, those of imports are based on, as far as can be ascertained, the prices of the commodities in the various markets of the ports at which the imports enter China, and those of exports on the prices in the markets of those ports at which the exports quit China. Any one can understand that the market price of an article must, as a rule, reimburse the seller all outlay incurred on it up to the time of sale, and must exclude

from it all prospective outlay. Thus, such price of an import includes not only the prime cost of the thing when it was about to land, but also costs incurred by it after landing, namely, the expenses of landing, storing, and selling, and the duty paid on the article. We understand that the price also includes the cost of buying ("at the exporter's profit or commission), the expenses of packing, storing, and shipping, and the export duty—increments of value all of which accrue to it in China and have to be added to the market price to ascertain the value of the article at the moment of its quitting China. And for the purposes of comparison it is the value of the imports at the moment of landing and of the exports at the moment of shipment that I have to estimate." In 1888 the market value of the imports was Tls. 124,782,839, from which Mr. McKEAN deducts Tls. 3,895,268 for duty and leikin, and Tls. 8,147,164 for charges at 10 per cent, which leaves a sum of Tls. 108,240,493 as the value of the imports at the moment of landing. The market value of the exports was Tls. 92,401,067, to which Mr. McKEAN adds Tls. 6,459,839 as the estimated duty, and Tls. 7,392,085 for charges, at 8 per cent, making the total value of the exports at the moment of shipment Tls. 106,292,931. This still leaves a balance of Tls. 1,900,000 in favour of imports, and it appears there was an export of Tls. 1,672,942 of gold and Tls. 1,909,872 of silver. But 1888, Mr. McKEAN explains, "was a year of abnormal results as regards imports, the stocks of cotton and woolen goods and mohair in Shanghai on the 1st January, 1889, being estimated in value at Tls. 2,600,000 over and above the stocks of the same commodities on the 1st January, 1888; and a year also in which China, under the stress of scarcity, imposed a tax on the Canton province alone of Tls. 9,000,000 worth of rice and paddy, to feed a population whose fields had been devastated by floods." In 1889 the market value of the imports was Tls. 116,884,335, and making similar deductions as in the case of 1888 the value at the moment of landing comes to Tls. 96,028,165, whereas the market value of the exports was Tls. 66,947,832, which sum, by the addition of duty and charges is brought up to Tls. 111,092,703, leaving a balance in favour of exports of Tls. 16,000,000. There was an export of Tls. 1,625,638 of gold and an import of Tls. 8,005,155 of silver. Even adding to the other imports the bullion imported it will be seen that Mr. McKEAN's figures still show a loss of over eight million taels. China's trade, however, is by no means such a bad case as Mr. McKEAN's report would make it appear. Although it would seem that last year's transactions resulted unfavourably, if we take a period of ten years we find a balance in favour of imports, though not a large one. For the ten years 1880-89 the imports were in round numbers 908 million taels. The deductions made from the imports in Mr. McKEAN's calculations for 1888 and 1889 amount to 18 per cent, and the additions to the exports to 15 per cent. Applying these corrections to the totals for the ten years we have imports 891 millions, and exports 876 millions, leaving a balance of 15 millions. In addition to this there has probably been a not inconsiderable import of silver. Gold is at present being exported from China owing to the high premium it commands in the using countries. Mr. McKEAN gives the movements of the precious metals for the last two years, but the figures were obtained by him, he does not say. Taking them as correct, however, we have a balance of Tls. 786,703 in favour of the import of silver after deducting the export of gold. A few years ago the Bengal Chamber of Commerce applied to the Hongkong Chamber for information as to the absorption of the precious metals by the Chinese. The Hongkong Chamber in reply gave figures for three years, obtained from the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank of the exports and imports from and by China to Hongkong only. The total imports for the three years were \$29,684,702 and the exports \$28,405,766, giving a balance in favour of imports into China of \$1,278,936. Mr. McKEAN's information has probably been obtained from the same source. But these figures cannot cover all the transactions of the numerous native financial agencies and the savings, brought home by returning emigrants. If these could be ascertained it would be found that the total gain of China from foreign intercourse is much larger than the balance of imports of merchandise, other than bullion, over exports, as shown by the customs tables. Leaving the previous mistake out of the account, however, Mr. McKEAN's contention that China's foreign imports do not outweigh her exports is evidently false; it would be a bad thing for China if it were not.

On the fourth page we publish another instalment of our serial story.

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board will be held this afternoon to consider the draft Bill for regulating water supply.

The Agents (Messrs. Siemssen & Co.) inform us that D. B. R. steamer *Zephira* left Singapore yesterday morning for this port.

A Formosa correspondent, T. Y. Z. writes:—  
“I find that the Emperor of Germany on the 20th instant at Darmstadt.

The Queen needs the Emperor of Germany on the 20th instant at Darmstadt.

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## OPIUM.

Per Pouch. Allowance.  
Now Malwa ... \$520 of 1 to 24 catties.  
Last year's New Malwa \$550 of 1 to 24  
Old Malwa ... \$550 of 1 to 24  
Pata (New) ... \$40 per catty.  
Hawas (New) ... \$30.

## EXPORT CARGO.

Per steamer *Djennah*, sailed on the 16th April—For Continent—1,257 bales silk, 311 bales waste silk, 57 cases silks, 29 cases pongee, 8 cases brocades, 40 boxes hair, and 51 packages *etc.*—To London—75 bales silk, 47 bales waste silk, 16 cases silks, 30 cases pongee, and 230 packages sundries.

## HONGKONG TEMPERATURE.

MISSES FALCONER & CO.'S REGISTER, APRIL 18TH.  
Barometer 9 A.M., 29.86 Therm. 1 P.M. (Wat bulb) 75  
Barometer 1 P.M., 29.86 Therm. 1 P.M. (Wat bulb) 75  
Therm. 9 A.M., 70 Therm. Minimum 61  
Therm. 1 P.M., 70 Therm. Minimum (over Therm.) 68 (light) 75

## METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

16TH APRIL, AT 4 P.M.

STATION. HEIGHT. (ft.) WIND. DIRECTION. PRESSURE. (in.) TEMPERATURE. (°F.) FEELS. (°F.) WIND. DIRECTION. PRESSURE. (in.) TEMPERATURE. (°F.) FEELS. (°F.)

Whidbey Island 2064 40 NW SSW 30.03 68 50 20 100 2064 40 NW SSW 30.03 68 50 20 100

Tokyo 2072 70 SW SSW 30.03 70 70 20 100 2072 70 SW SSW 30.03 70 70 20 100

Shanghai 2085 68 SE SSW 30.03 68 68 20 100 2085 68 SE SSW 30.03 68 68 20 100

Amoy 2081 75 SE SSW 30.03 75 75 20 100 2081 75 SE SSW 30.03 75 75 20 100

Hongkong 2082 78 SW S 30.03 78 78 20 100 2082 78 SW S 30.03 78 78 20 100

Bali 2084 80 SW S 30.03 80 80 20 100 2084 80 SW S 30.03 80 80 20 100

Manila 2086 50 SW S 30.03 50 50 20 100 2086 50 SW S 30.03 50 50 20 100

Azing 2090 50 NE N 30.03 50 50 20 100 2090 50 NE N 30.03 50 50 20 100

Whidbey Island 2094 40 NW SSW 30.03 68 50 20 100 2094 40 NW SSW 30.03 68 50 20 100

Tokyo 2072 70 SW SSW 30.03 70 70 20 100 2072 70 SW SSW 30.03 70 70 20 100

Shanghai 2085 68 SE SSW 30.03 68 68 20 100 2085 68 SE SSW 30.03 68 68 20 100

Amoy 2081 75 SE SSW 30.03 75 75 20 100 2081 75 SE SSW 30.03 75 75 20 100

Hongkong 2082 78 SW S 30.03 78 78 20 100 2082 78 SW S 30.03 78 78 20 100

Bali 2084 80 SW S 30.03 80 80 20 100 2084 80 SW S 30.03 80 80 20 100

Manila 2086 50 SW S 30.03 50 50 20 100 2086 50 SW S 30.03 50 50 20 100

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## A BORN COQUETTE.

BY MRS. HUNTERFORD,  
AUTHOR OF "MOLLY BAWN," "PHYLIS,"  
"LADY BRANKEMERE," "THE  
DUTCHES," &c., &c.  
(Now First Published.)

## CHAPTER XLII.

"Oh, if my love confided me,  
And we had words together."

"Where's Nan?" asks somebody.

It is 12 o'clock next day, and the snow is falling, with a sharp, a painful determination to spend the rest of the afternoon on the birds, and have sorrowfully made up their minds to remain indoors. Some trifling difficulty about the arrangements for the evening's amusement has arisen, and suddenly every one becomes conscious that the hostess—of all people—is not here to be bothered and worried and drawn into the social life of the party. Mrs. Hume, however, has given up their venture on the birds, and have sorrowfully made up their minds to remain indoors. Some trifling difficulty about the arrangements for the evening's amusement has arisen, and suddenly every one becomes conscious that the hostess—of all people—is not here to be bothered and worried and drawn into the social life of the party.

"I dare say she is in the billiard room," says Hume. "I think I heard Blake challenging her to a game, half an hour ago."

"Oh, I suppose I did," says Mrs. Hume. "I suggested an adjournment to that free and easy region. After all on an impossible day like this, what is good as billiards?" Miss Leads, who is staying at Hume, and who fancies French, has vaguely that Nan has won her game.

Such is it in the house that has indeed won it! But what a game! Old Mrs. Leads, who is the first to enter the library, stands back breathless, trying hard to cover her smile. She has been in the room. Nothing comes of this modest effort, however, save a few tramping on the pet coils of the person behind her, and presently all are in full view of the animated entertainment Nan has provided for them.

The billiard table is in the centre of the room and round and round it Nan is flying, closely pursued by Mr. Blake. So intent are these two on their game that they do not notice the accompaniment of that, the entrance of a dozen people or so into their room.

"Wait a second! Twill be over in a moment," gasps Nan, waving us hand to them as she flies past, her skirt gaudily tickled up, her chin in air, her bold face full of a determination to do or die.

The first astonishment at an end, it is impossible now to look more or less and indeed the whole master might have added harmlessly and afterwards have been regarded as an episode, harmless positively, if wanting in dignity, but for an unfortunate turn given to it by French.

French has regarded this gallant contest with an unkindly eye. And now, through the merry laughter of the others, sees a sharpозиа in his master's conduct in his desire to witness all present. Instinctively everybody turns in its direction, to see Boyle, rigidly rigid, his dark face livid, his eyes flashing. He has forgotten everything, even decency, and a savage rage shows itself in his expression as his gaze rests on the unconscious Peter.

There is something so new to murder in him that involuntarily all the mirth dies; a little shock has fallen upon everybody, and now a silence.

Harts, who is standing next French, lays his hand reluctantly, but with a savage pressure, upon his arm.

"What the deuce are you thinking about?" says he, with such angry contempt that French pulls himself together, and tries to gain some command over his features. He shakes off Harts, and turns to Lady Despard, who receives him coldly.

At this instant comes a little triumphant cry from Nan.

"Twenty!" laughs she in a breathless fashion, stopping short, and laying one pretty hand upon her heart. "Six and a quarter, Peter. I told you I'd win."

She has come to a standstill close to her husband, and looks him in the eye with a sharp report. There is no more meaning in her than accepting him as prop that if he had been a chair or table, and yet a foolish unmeaning joy grows within his breast. Lady Despard looking coldly on, allows her a widow to which in truth poor Nan can lay no claim.

"He said he could beat me in twenty runs round that," explains Nan, pointing to the small table in the corner, glowing, lovely face still to Hume. "It is out of his mind's bad mood with him. But he wasn't in it. He tried his best, and couldn't catch me. Peter, my child, you will have to go on prison fare before you can hope to overtake me."

"It was falling over that chair over there did for me," says Mr. Blake. "For it I should have beaten you into a cocked hat."

"Oh, I suppose that is it," says Hume, with some impatience. "Why I fell over the other man, and what had that to do? But my good Peter, you are too fat. That's where it is."

The recriminations are not only so loud, but so deep, that Lady Despard takes it on herself to put an end to them. Good gracious, when a girl for a well-regarded man to take to wife! If Hume had looked angry she might have felt comforted in her own topsy-turvy impulsive. Does he see? Does he know?

That he sees and feels everything is shown later, but only to that hardened criminal his wife. Aware of a custom of her's that taxes her half-an-hour before luncheon, into her own private den (an exquisitely arranged little nest in the southern wing, designed for her by Hume himself), with the understood purpose of writing letters to her mother, and having knocked at the door, and being given the key, she enters, opens it and then closes it firmly behind him.

It is a charming room, and being a corner one has two big windows, one facing south, the other west. From the southern window a full view of the Castle can be had, the water, now frozen over, and glittering beneath the sun's rays. Heavy Eastern curtains bright with golden thread, exclude every draught, and a brilliant fire of orange and red, from the chimney. Soft cushions of Indian silk, screens in hue, are thrown gaudily about, and priceless statuettes, and delicate jars and vases, of oriental workmanship, stand on cabinets and tables.

A large fan is lying on Mrs. Hume's knees; it falls to the ground with a little crack as she rises to meet him. There is surprise in her eyes, but there is no emotion in his; a steady determination that starts her. It is a sort of "now or never" look, she tells herself, with a rather nervous shrug.

"Oh, I didn't think it was you," says she, with that fatal impulsiveness that belongs to her. "Or perhaps you would have denied me entrance," says he with a rather grim smile. "Now I am here. I hope you will try to endue me a few minutes."

"You have no time to sold me," says Nan, with prophetic certainty. "Do it quickly and get it over."

## CHAPTER XLIII.

"My flower has unfold'd its leaves."

"Valentines are fresh budding rose."

"When art I to spring, my sweet?"

"With thee, O my love, with a fairer thing,

Let to thy love who watches and singe."

"One needs a child," says Hume, grinning earnestly at her. "You are no longer a child now, but I am. There is a fact that is mine that I am now."

"It's very good of you," says Mrs. Hume, sinking back in her chair, and preparing herself for all things. "You can call me an old woman if you like. I don't mind."

"I must request you will not receive what I have to say to you in this spirit, and says hardly, angrily. He is sore at heart, and says hardly, angrily. "You are not a child now, but I am."

"Do you suppose it is a difficult thing for the woman of a home to be caught running round a table with a young man after her by her crestfall? It was the sort of a tom-boy. I wouldn't have believed it of you."

"I'm not ten years old," retorting furiously. "No one ever called me that before. And you don't. As for the case of running round a table with a young man after her, I am not."

"It's very good of you," says Mrs. Hume. She has pulled a straw out of a Japanese basket and the, and is now nibbling it with an apparent unconcern that saddens him.

"You don't care," says he, sardonically.

"Not that," says she, holding out to him her dainty fingers the offending straw.

He does, and it is a sharp reminder to the headstrong girl going to the window. Whatever he wants to express, though not to tell, and presently comes back again, older if not bluer.

"You go too far," says he, stiffly. "You are difficult to argue with, but I hope you think more."

"Why should I?" demands she, rising to her feet, and regarding him with a look that makes the author of the speech swallow his words.

"I don't," says he, like your wife. "If you choose to have some words read over me to yourself and my uncle that is he before it, I shall let no one tell me that I behave badly."

"I never used the words," says Hume, a good deal shocked.

"I am afraid it. It is the same thing. You have a good heart and mind, and I shall tell the girls all about it. They will not misjudge me."

As she speaks she straightens up a hat and a fur collar she had thrown on an ottoman while trying to create a sentence that is not ready.

"Peter! What's that you came to say?"

"I say you that you have poisioned her against me," angrily. "If you have a word to say to me, say it."

"I know that I have not," says Hume. "You now will be a son to me, and not a girl."

"I am not a son to you, but a man," says he. "I am not a son to you, but a man."

"I want no defense," coldly. She has her hand on the handle of the door, but as it once again surprised and horrified by her own words, looks back at him.

"I don't know what has happened to me," she cries, tears gathering in her eyes. "I use to be a nice girl—quite nice, indeed. I am not a nice girl now, but a day older."

Peter has nothing to do with it. But—He checks himself abruptly, pausing as if to control the vehemence that threatens to naked him. "It is this," he says presently, his tone slow and careful, "your friendship with your son—Peter!—is compromising you."

"I want no defense," coldly. She has her hand on the handle of the door, but as it once again surprised and horrified by her own words, looks back at him.

"Encourage me!" wrathfully.

"Certainly you do," steadily, and with a determined grip on his shoulder. "I am not a nice girl now, but a day older."

"I know quite enough," stiffly. "I wish to hear more. In my opinion, he cares for you more than you know, and that fact will tell you all about him."

"I know quite enough," she says, with a smile, with sudden loosening of her wrath. "I did mean by looking at you like that?"

"Like what?" in spite of herself. Nan is a little carried away by his passion.

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"How should I know?" says Nan, growing calm all in a moment. "Who shall understand a man?"

"Do you think you are more comprehendible than he is?" Do you think you are not jealous? And both of you about what?—a woman, who cares nothing for either of you?—that is the point. I am the one who is to be blamed, not you. You have him, as though it were all the Galileans the biggest sinners, and yet, is it my fault? And you are wrong, too, as I told you before. He cares nothing for me. You need not use bad language towards me on account of him."

"Listen to me," says Hume, with such authority in her voice that she silent for a moment. "The man I love is in love with you. There can be no doubt about that. His face in the billiard-room just now betrayed him. Every one noticed him."

"Did they?" says Mrs. Hume, with a distinctly unpleasant inflection. "That shows how terribly they were at a loss for amusement."

"They are not," says Hume, with a smile, and then, with a sudden violence, "What would have happened if he had been a chair or table, and yet a foolish unmeaning joy grows within his breast." Lady Despard looking coldly on, allows her a widow to which in truth poor Nan can lay no claim.

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"You don't care," says he, sardonically.

of yours to me, you are as ignorant as though I had never seen you before."

"I have said nothing," says Hume. "That's just it. That is what is so aggravating about you. You are selling me ignorance in your own mind, but you won't say it. You say nothing, but like the parrot you think the more I hate all that sort of things," cries the lovely Virago, shaking her head in withering protest, with her straight brows drawn down over her eyes.

"I think I was perfectly reasonable."

"Do you? To whom are of me?" says Hume, a good deal shocked.

"I am implying it. It is the same thing. You have a good heart and mind, and I shall tell the girls all about it. They will not misjudge me."

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